



Association of State  
Drinking Water Administrators

*37<sup>th</sup>*

# Annual Conference

Scottsdale, Arizona - October 17 to 19, 2022

# ASDWA Annual Conference 2022 Agenda

## Sunday, October 16

- 5:00-7:00 Welcoming Reception (in-person only)  
*Sponsored by the National Rural Water Association*
- 7:00-8:00 Emerging Leaders Event

## Monday, October 17

- 8:00 Exhibits Open
- 8:00-9:15 Networking Breakfast (in-person only)  
*Sponsored by the National Rural Water Association*
- 9:30-10:30 Opening Session (in-person only)**
- Alan Roberson, Executive Director – Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA)
  - Randall Matas, Deputy Director – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
  - Jennifer McLain, Director – Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
  - Lori Mathieu, ASDWA President, Public Health Branch Chief - Environmental Health & Drinking Water Branch, Connecticut Department of Public Health
- 10:30-11:00 Break
- 11:00-12:30 Lead (virtual option)**
- With the ongoing national spotlight on lead, and the unprecedented amount of funding now available for lead service line replacement, states continue to face and overcome the unique challenges posed by this contaminant. During this panel, states and EPA will discuss strategies they have used to overcome these specific challenges, contemplate the future of the LCR, and engage with the audience to identify ways in which the industry can achieve our common goal to be lead free.*
- Eric Oswald, Director – Drinking Water & Municipal Assistance Division, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
  - Amy Klei, Chief – Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
  - Linda Ofori, Assistant Director – Division of Water Supply and Geoscience, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
  - Eric Burneson, Director – Standards and Risk Management Division, US Environmental Protection Agency
- 12:30-2:00 Lunch break
- 2:00-3:30 Cybersecurity (in-person only)**
- Given the rise of high-profile cyber incidents at public water systems, states are taking action to increase resiliency within the sector. During this panel, representatives from state drinking water agencies will discuss unique approaches to addressing cybersecurity, including some of the challenges and lessons learned that may help others in developing their own programs.*

- Todd Johnson, Operations Supervisor - Minnesota Department of Health Drinking Water Protection
- Stephanie Nistico, Planning Coordinator – New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
- Brandon Carreno, Environmental Specialist– New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

3:30-4:00 Break

**4:00-5:00 Water Availability (in-person only)**

*Water availability has continued to be a hot topic, particularly as the southwest continues to battle with a record-breaking drought. Addressing this problem will require innovative solutions. In this session, three states will discuss the challenges they are facing to ensure that their communities have sufficient, safe drinking water now and into the future.*

- Darrin Polhemus, Deputy Director - Division of Drinking Water, California State Water Resources Control Board
- Ron Falco, Safe Drinking Water Program Manager - Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
- Amy B. Parmenter, Chief - Center for Drinking Water Quality, Rhode Island Department of Health

6:00-9:00 Offsite Social Event

*5:30 first bus departure.*

*Sponsored by Global Environmental Consulting*

6:00 Exhibits Close

## Tuesday, October 18

8:00 Exhibits Open

8:00-9:00 Breakfast with exhibitors (in-person only)

*Sponsored by the National Rural Water Association*

**9:00-10:30 Small Systems/Disadvantaged Communities (in-person only)**

*With the Biden Administration’s renewed emphasis on increasing infrastructure funding and environmental justice, state drinking water programs are facing both opportunities and challenges with expanding on their successes to help small and disadvantaged water systems address needs for upgrading, maintaining, managing, and sustainably operating their systems.*

- Reshet Gebremariam, Technical Assistance and Capacity Development Coordinator - Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- Alicia Jacobs, Manager - Division of Water Drinking Water, Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection
- Table Discussions - Participants at each table will discuss a list of questions and report out on small and disadvantaged water system successes and challenges.

10:30-11:00 Break

**11:00-12:30 PFAS (virtual)**

*EPA has been moving quickly with numerous actions to address PFAS, including the release of four new health advisories. Although non-regulatory, these health advisories have brought implementation and communication challenges as states work with their water systems and the public to address detections of PFOA, PFOS, GenX, and PFBS. Alongside federal actions, individual states have been working hard to address PFAS contamination. In this panel, hear from three primacy agencies as they discuss the ongoing challenges and successes they have experienced while tackling PFAS.*

- Lisa D. Daniels, Acting Deputy Secretary - Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Water Programs
- Sandeep R. Burman, Manager - Drinking Water Protection, Minnesota Department of Health
- Travis Spaeth, Safe Drinking Water Program Manager - Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Northern Mariana Island

12:30-2:00 Lunch break

**2:00-3:30 Climate Change (in-person only)**

*Prolonged drought in some areas and an increase in flooding frequency and intensity in others has added to the challenges facing the water sector. This session will explore ongoing mitigation efforts state drinking water programs are implementing, while also highlighting the hurdles states are encountering. The audience is encouraged to bring their unique challenges and potential solutions to building climate resiliency.*

- Cindy Christian, Manager – Drinking Water Program, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- Holly Myers, Director - Office of Drinking Water, Washington Department of Health
- Natalie Mast, AMA Director – Arizona Department of Water Resources

3:30-4:00 Break

**4:00-5:00 Workforce (in-person)**

*An aging workforce and high rate of turnover have been consistent patterns within the water industry and identifying solutions has proven to be difficult. During this session the audience will have an interactive discussion on ideas to improve leadership, hiring, retention, and training for both operators and primacy agency staff.*

5:00-7:00 Reception with exhibits (in-person only)

*Sponsored by 120Water*

7:00 Exhibits Close

## Wednesday, October 19 – States and EPA Only

9:00-5:00 *Exhibit Teardown*

8:00-9:00 Breakfast with exhibitors with Prize Drawing (in-person only)

*Sponsored by the National Rural Water Association*

**9:00-10:30 Drinking Water Hot Topics (in-person only)**

*ASDWA has asked each Region to identify one or two drinking water hot topics not already on the agenda. After a brief introduction of each topic, the audience will participate in a live vote on the order of topics to discuss.*

10:30-11:00 Break

**11:00-12:30 Upcoming Regulatory Changes (virtual option)**

*A series of new regulations and revisions (LCRI, PFAS, MDBP, CCR, Water System Restructuring Rule, etc.) are scheduled over the next few years, and in order to be prepared for implementing those changes, states need to be engaged early and often in the regulatory development process. Panelists from EPA will outline a variety of upcoming regulations, detail opportunities for engagement, and respond to questions from the audience.*

- Eric Burneson, Director – Standards and Risk Management, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Hannah Holsinger, Supervisor – Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Greg Carroll, Associate Director – Standards and Risk Management, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

12:30-1:30 Lunch Buffet

**1:30-3:00 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Successes and Challenges (virtual option)**

*As the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) approaches its one-year anniversary, states are working hard to apply for and roll out the first round of funding. Panelists from EPA and states will discuss what we've learned so far, as well as the successes and challenges of implementing this unprecedented funding.*

- Jonathan Nelson, Senior Advisor for Technical Assistance and Community Outreach - Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Lori J. Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief - Environmental Health & Drinking Water Branch, Connecticut Department of Public Health
- Cathy Tucker-Vogel, Chief - Public Water Supply Section, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

3:00-3:30 Break

**3:30-4:00 Ongoing OECA Initiatives – National Targeting Center SDWA Community of Practice, Drinking Water Learning Agenda, Inspections & File Reviews (in-person only)**

- Martha Segall, Senior Engineering Advisor – Office of Compliance – Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**4:00-5:15 Emerging Contaminants (in-person only)**

*In addition to contaminants with NPDWRs, states are also challenged with addressing unregulated contaminants detected in their water. States and EPA have taken a variety of approaches to address contaminants of emerging concern, and during this session there will be a rotating interactive discussion on four emerging contaminants – manganese, harmful algal blooms (HABs), Legionella, and arsenic.*

**5:00-5:15 Wrap-up and Adjourn (in-person only)**

- Alan Roberson, Executive Director – Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA)

- Lori Mathieu, ASDWA President, Public Health Branch Chief - Environmental Health & Drinking Water Branch, Connecticut Department of Public Health

*For more information and registration, go to ASDWA's [Annual Conference Event Page](#).*